



GOP PLAN COULD CUT UP TO \$7.0 BILLION FROM HEALTH CARE, NURSING HOME BENEFITS FOR DELAWARE RESIDENTS

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The new Republican budget reflects upside-down priorities – it would shower the wealthiest few Americans with an average tax cut of at least \$150,000 – paying for it by ending Medicare as we know it, taking away the benefits Americans enjoy as a result of health reform, and putting more of the burden on middle class families. Their plan to block grant and cut \$1.7 trillion in health care services through Medicaid would put an end to vital services that seniors depend on like nursing home care and home health aides. If Republicans get their way, Delaware residents would lose \$7.0 billion in health benefits, including \$900 million for seniors, and 69,000 residents could see their coverage cut entirely.

Republican Budget Could Force As Many As 69,000 Delaware Residents Off Medicaid. Medicaid currently provides health coverage to roughly 148,800 Delaware residents, with the federal government picking up 54.20% of Delaware's Medicaid costs. At a minimum, the Ryan Plan could remove as many as 69,000 Delaware residents from the program. [CBPP, 3/20/12; Kaiser Commission on Medicaid, 2/2011; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; KFF, 5/11]

Republican Budget Cuts \$900 million in Health Care for Delaware Seniors By Slashing Medicaid. The House Republican budget could slash \$900 million in nursing home care and other health care services for seniors and the disabled. In Delaware, over 28,272 seniors and disabled currently rely on Medicaid for their health care needs. While Medicare doesn't cover long-term care, 27.60% of Medicaid spending in Delaware provides this critical care for seniors, and is often the only avenue they have to get the care they need. The cost of long-term care can be financially devastating to seniors and their families, with nursing home costs averaging \$114,975 in Delaware for a private room – and that average is rising every year. These cuts could have a devastating impact on the 37 Delaware certified nursing homes, which serve 3,592 seniors, with more than half relying on Medicaid as their primary payer. As a result, nursing homes would be forced to slash services, turn away seniors, or close their doors. [Kaiser Commission on Medicaid, 2/11; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; MetLife, 10/11; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12]

